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INR

INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

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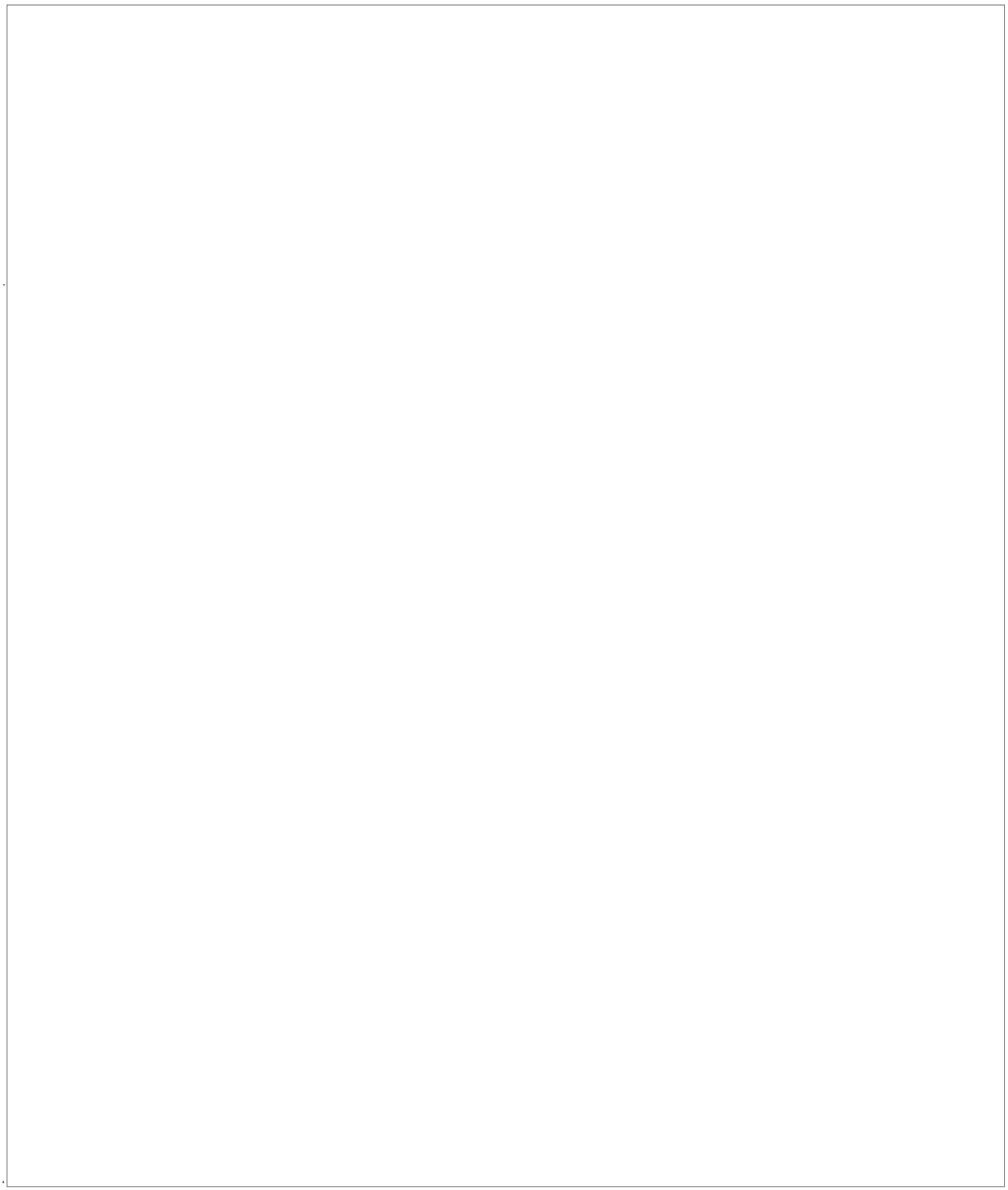

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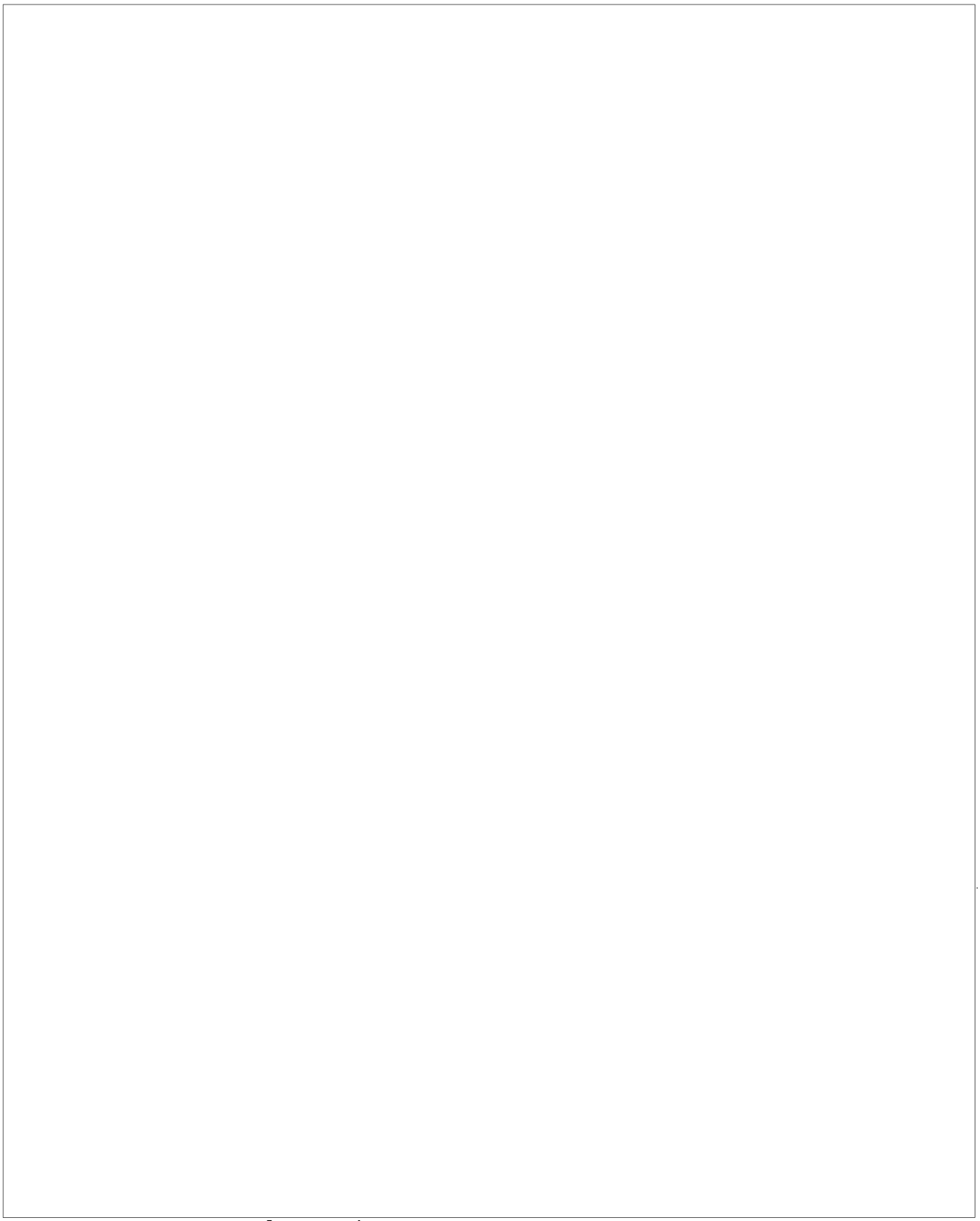

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Argentina

Government Invites IAHRC Investigation. On October 16, Argentina formally invited the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC) to conduct an on-site investigation, preferably between March and May 1979. Negotiations concerning the visit had been in progress since June when the Argentines issued an invitation that the Commission found unacceptable because of restrictions that the government wanted to place on IAHRC activities.

Press treatment of the invitation as well as the phrasing of the Argentine note did not reveal the discreet and careful manner in which conditions governing the visit have been worked out. According to an aide to President Videla, the Commission will have considerable latitude, including access to prisons, relatives of disappeared persons, and civilian political leaders. It will not have access to military bases, however.

The aide also suggested to Embassy Buenos Aires officers that the US should impress upon the IAHRC the fact that the invitation encountered strong opposition in some Argentine military quarters. (CONFIDENTIAL, Buenos Aires 8248, October 18)

INR Comment. Hardline nationalist opposition to an IAHRC investigation probably was dampened by the recent US decision to approve Export-Import Bank financing for a major hydroelectric project, financing that had formerly been denied on human rights grounds. An IAHRC visit to Argentina would significantly increase the chances of Commission visits to Paraguay and Uruguay by undermining a reported informal agreement among Southern Cone governments to exclude the IAHRC. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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